



REGION 10

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Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL



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The States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are working in coordination with the Columbia Basin Tribes to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Temperature and Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

A TMDL for a water body is a document that identifies the amount of a pollutant that the water body can receive and still meet Water Quality Standards (WQS). It also allocates responsibility for reductions in the pollutant load that are necessary to achieve WQS. A TMDL is required by the Clean Water Act for any stream reaches included by States or Tribes on their lists of impaired waters required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Impaired waters are those that do not attain State or Tribal Water Quality Standards (WQS).

The Snake River from its confluence with the Salmon River at RM 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River has been included on the 303(d) list of impaired waters for Temperature and TDG by either Idaho, Oregon or Washington as appropriate. Oregon and Washington included all of the Columbia River on their 303(d) lists for TDG and most of the Columbia River on their lists for Temperature. The Columbia River also exceeds the WQS of the Colville Confederated Tribes for Temperature and TDG. The Spokane Tribe of Indians has WQS for the Columbia River that have been adopted by the Tribe but not yet approved by EPA. These standards are also exceeded in the Columbia River.

An inter-agency steering committee consisting of staff from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of

Environmental Quality, the Washington Department of Ecology and the EPA has been formed to develop the Temperature and TDG TMDLs. A number of Columbia Basin Tribes also participate on the committee. The states will issue the final TMDLs for Temperature and TDG for the parts of the rivers for which they have jurisdiction. EPA will issue the TMDLs for the parts of the rivers that are in Tribal Reservations.

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